

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05298 151214Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05298

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PEPR, PFOR, GE, UN, US

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL

- DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978.

REF: STATE 204786

1. I CALLED TODAY ON DR. HARALD ROSE, ACTING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS, AND DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE ALONG LINES REFTEL. IN DOING SO, I STRESSED (A) THE REASONS UNDERLYING U.S. DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND (B) WHOLEHEARTED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE DECADE OF ACTION TO COMBAT THE EVILS OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AS THESE TERMS WERE INITIALLY UNDERSTOOD IN 1973. I ALSO NOTED THAT THE USG WAS APPEALING TO THE GDR AND SOME OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN ORDER TO PREVENT ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD REAFFIRM THE ZIONISM-RACISM-DECADE LINKAGE.

2. AMBASSADOR ROSE REPLIED THAT THE GDR STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE AIMS OF THE DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. HE SAID THE GDR WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05298 151214Z

SEMITISM, RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND. ROSE SAID THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA; THE CONFERENCE SHOULD FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE. IN ANY CASE, THIS WOULD BE THE THRUST OF ACTIVITIES OF THE GDR DELEGATION IN GENEVA, ACCORDING TO ROSE.

3. AMBASSADOR ROSE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF ISRAEL'S SUPPRESSION OF THE ARAB PEOPLE WAS BOUND TO BE RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE. BUT HE CLAIMED NOT TO BE AWARE OF ANY RESOLUTION OR ACTION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH THE ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE.

4. I NOTED THE STRONG US OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID AND BRIEFED ROSE ON US EFFORTS TO WORK FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES IN SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA.

5. ROSE CONCLUDED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT THE GDR HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US DELEGATION AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND COOPERATION BY THE US AND GDR DELEGATIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA WOULD CONTINUE. I TOLD ROSE I FAVORED SUCH EXCHANGES, WHICH WOULD BE IMPORTANT NOT ONLY IN DEALING WITH MULTILATERAL ISSUES BUT WOULD HELP BUILD MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. BOLEN

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